



Whitehall Junior School School Newsletter 28th May 2021

Summer Term: 5



Dear Families,

It seems hardly possible that we are already at the end of yet another term! Where has the time gone?

As we prepare to close for our May half-term break today, it is a wonderful opportunity for us to look back at all our successes this term, of which there are quite a few.

Thank you for your ongoing support, especially during these extraordinary times. It is also important to remember that we are also here to support you, as families, and that we can be approached at any time.

Enjoy the half-term break with your families, find time to recharge and let us hope that the weatherman has it right this time!

Look after yourselves and stay well!

Mrs Moloj, Headteacher

Achievements

21 Years of Service with a Smile



As a school, we value all members of staff who serve our Whitehall Junior School community, from kitchen staff to cleaners.

Today, please join me in congratulating Mrs Gristwood, a long-standing member of our kitchen staff, who has been keeping our children fed and watered over the last 21 years. This is yet another shining example of why we all love being a part of the WJS family.

"Thank you, Mrs Gristwood, for continuing to serve us with your warm and happy nature. May you continue with us for many more years to come!"

'Awe and Wonder' this Spring!





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We have been fortunate enough to have been able to have a **'Living Eggs'** experience this term. To enable us to observe the life cycle of the chicken, we arranged for eggs to be on display in our reception area, giving us the opportunity to witness the chicks hatching within days of arrival.

With this being directly outside of my office, it has been so heart-warming to hear the joys of both children and adults alike as they have observed the wonders of nature in action.

May the hope that comes from 'new life' be a sign of that which is yet to come for us all.

Year 5 swimming has begun safely.



We are delighted to have been safely able to resume swimming for some of our Year 5 pupils this term. With swimming being a vital life skill and being a key area within our Physical Education curriculum, we continue to value the importance of providing such opportunities for our pupils. We look forward to putting many more children through their paces in the coming weeks and years.

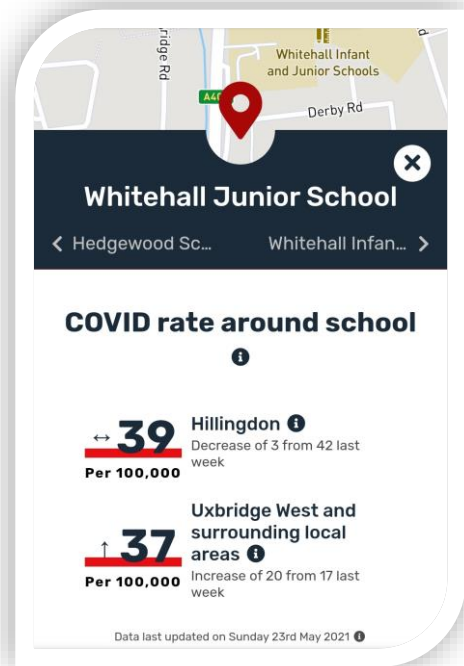
Whitehall Week: The Year 6 Experience



Over the years, we have arranged a Year 6 residential and Whitehall Week for those who are unable to go to Cardfields. This year, whilst unable to arrange a residential due to the pandemic, we have instead arranged a week of fun activities for our Year 6 pupils. This will include: a day at Go Ape, trip to Beale Park, and much more.

General

COVID-19 rates in our area



Hillingdon Council is working with Public Health England (PHE) to carry out enhanced COVID-19 testing and accelerated vaccination in pockets of the borough where cases of the variant first discovered in India have been found.

Extensive tracking of the virus has identified at least two cases of the variant in six areas in Hillingdon (Harlington, West Drayton, Yiewsley, Uxbridge, South Ruislip and Charville). Enhanced testing has recently completed in the South Ruislip area. The specific areas within the active postcode areas can be found on the Council website.

[Enhanced testing for COVID-19 variants of concern - Hillingdon Council](#)

This is a purely precautionary measure aimed at identifying and suppressing any incidences of COVID-19 Variants of Concern.



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What can we do:



- Families who are eligible to take up their vaccine are being encouraged to do so;
- families of children are being encouraged to take their PCR tests if they have received a letter from the Council asking them to get tested (because they live in one of the target areas);
- Remember the PHE appeal of **hands, face, space, fresh air**

Health & Fitness Week



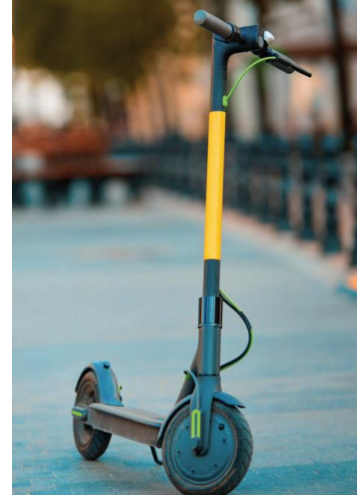
We will be holding our **Health & Fitness Week** during the week of 21st June 2021. Whilst we will be holding our Sports Day within this week, this year, due to the restrictions on public gatherings, **parents will not be able to attend**. Let us hope that we can have many more family events once safe to do so.

Punctuality



We have several children **regularly** arriving late to school. Please make sure that you leave for school in plenty of time to arrive before the back gate closes. The gate opens at 8.30 and all children need to be in by 8.50 when the gate closes. As the register officially closes at 9am, any arriving after this time is deemed late. Thank you.

Electric Scooters



Did you know?

- E-scooters are **illegal** for use in any public space unless rented as part of a government-approved trial (see overleaf)
- Riding an e-scooter on the road is **against the law** as per the Road Traffic Act of 1988 and the Highway Act of 1835
- E-scooters are **prohibited** from being used on cycle tracks, cycle lanes on roads, or other spaces dedicated to pedal cycle use only
- Privately owned e-scooters can only be ridden on private land

Swimming resumes



We are pleased to announce that, having assessed the COVID-19 situation within Hillingdon, we are now able to resume swimming for our Year 5s this term. Our school's swimming sessions take place at the Hillingdon Leisure Centre as part of our PE programme. The Year 5 classes that have not previously had sessions will begin in their allotted May or June sessions.



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Our Eid Celebrations



As our Whitehall Junior family, we are always proud of our celebrated 'DIVERSITY' and our rich blend of cultures and religions.

Here are some wonderful reminders of what makes WJS so special. These are pictures taken from our most recent Eid celebrations:



This is yet another reason why I love working here at Whitehall Junior School!

Let us **'Stand TALL, Be PROUD, Be YOURSELF. You are AMAZING!'**

Our Term in Pictures

Here are only a few of the many moments that got everyone chirping:



Pictured above: Day 7



Thank you to some pupils in our Ants' Hub Class for producing some artwork after visiting the chicks daily.



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General reminders: Summer Playtimes



On hot days, please make sure that sun cream is applied to children at home and that sun hats are sent into school. Any children suffering from hay fever will need to have their medication before coming to school as they will be playing on the school field or on the lower playgrounds, weather permitting.

Term Dates



<u>School Term Dates 2020-2021</u>
<u>Summer Term 5</u>
Monday 19 th April 2021- Thursday 27 th May 2021
Training Day Friday 28 th May 2021 SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
<u>Summer Term 6</u>
Monday 07 th June 2021- Friday 23 rd July 2021
(Early closure: 12:30pm only on the last day of term)
Training Day Friday 02 nd July 2021 SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN

For a copy of the **2021-2022 term dates**, please visit our website on:

<https://www.whitehalljunior.org/term-dates-1/>

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday changes:



Due to the recently announced 2-day celebrations allocated to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on 2nd and 3rd June 2022, schools have been advised by the DfE to reduce our school calendar from 190 days to 189 instead.

Please note that our school will therefore not be opening on: **Friday 27th May 2022**. These changes are reflected on our 2021-2022 calendar.

Enjoy the half-term break!



Stay safe, stay well and we look forward to welcoming back to school on **Monday 7th June 2021!**